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Alabama Department of
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New event provides community resources for families of people with disabilities

HUNTSVILLE – When it comes to taking care of people with disabilities, family members or caregivers may need a break from time to time.

To assist, the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) is sponsoring Respite 101, a free resource fair on respite, day programs and sitter services for children, youth and adults with disabilities. The event will be held Tuesday, August 26, from 9 a.m. to noon at the ADRS office in Huntsville.

The half-day program is designed to educate consumers, parents, families, health-care providers, rehabilitation professionals and educators about the community resources that are available to them.

"We were receiving an increasing number of families relocating to our area who needed to connect to services for a family member with a disability," said Ann Robertson, nurse coordinator for Children's Rehabilitation Service, the ADRS division that is organizing the event.

"Many times, the needs of the consumer and family were beyond the scope of our program," she said. "We've always thought, however, that it was important to assist the family in locating the appropriate resources. Respite 101 will pull together as many of these community resources as possible in an effort to educate everyone."

Some organizations that will be providing information include Alabama Medicaid Agency, Alabama Department of Public Health, Children's Trust Fund, Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource Network, Center for Developmental Disabilities of Decatur, and United Cerebral Palsy of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley.

The Huntsville ADRS office is located at 3000 Johnson Road, SW.

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services is the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.